

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 /069 W
----- 032251

R 141128Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9174

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJ: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. FRG AMBASSADOR VERGAU TELLS ME THAT, THROUGH THE
INDISCRETION OF A YOUNG VOLTAN OFFICIAL AT PRESIDENCY,
HE HAS SEEN A COPY OF A TELEGRAM DATED FEBRUARY 7 SENT
BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA TO TOGO'S PRESIDENT EYADEMA EX-
PRESSING DOUBTS THAT MALIAN AUTHORITIES WILL PERMIT
MEDIATION COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LOME COMMUNIQUE AND WARNING THAT, IF
NO PROGRESS IS MADE WITHIN REASONABLE TIME, UPPER VOLTA
WILL BE FORCED TO EXERCISE "ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF
SELF-DEFENSE."

2. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT MAJOR FELIX
TIENTARABOUM, MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND
CULTURE (OUAGA 123) CONTINUES TO HOLD REGULAR PEP TALKS
WITH VARIOUS YOUTH GROUPS AND THAT, AT A RECENT
MEETING, HE CLAIMED THAT GOUV HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE
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ARMS IN AFRICA, EUROPE AND AMERICA. HE REPORTEDLY

STATED THAT IF WORK OF MEDIATION COMMISSION DRAGGED ON BEYOND MARCH 1, UPPER VOLTA WOULD TAKE MATTERS INTO ITS OWN HANDS.

3. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT GOUV'S FRANTIC EFFORTS TO PURCHASE ARMS HAVE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS AT LEAST IN AFRICA AND EUROPE (WE HAVE HEARD A RUMOR THAT AT LEAST 15 ARMORED CARS OF FRENCH MANUFACTURE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED IN THE IVORY COAST), THERE IS DANGER THAT HOT HEADS SUCH AS TIENTARABOUM WILL PREVAIL UPON LAMIZANA TO DO SOMETHING FOOLISH IN ORDER TO REDEEM UPPER VOLTA'S HONOR AND SHOW VOLTAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT MILITARY REGIME IS NOT JUST SITTING ON ITS HANDS.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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